

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



S2021-SR2

Replacing the Pass/D/Fail Grading Option with the Current Credit/No-Credit Grading Option

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Whereas, in Spring 2020, the College ultimately adapted a Credit/No-Credit grading system after consulting students and faculty;

Whereas, in Spring 2020, FairGradesMidd and Opt-In Midd began conversations and advocated on behalf of academic policies that would support students;

Whereas, the Credit/No-Credit grading policy continued into Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 due to the circumstances presented by the ongoing pandemic;

Whereas, we expect the College to, at some point, revert to a Pass/D/Fail grading system unless there are unforeseen circumstances yet again;

Whereas, the Credit/No-Credit grading policy offers additional flexibility and support for students enduring difficulties while pursuing their education;

Whereas, Pass/D/Fail can negatively impact the students GPA if they receive either a D or F in course;

Whereas, the Middlebury College Registrar's Office states that "A grade of D or F will count in the GPA. A grade of P will not".¹

Whereas, Credit/No-Credit does not impact a students GPA if they receive a NCR grade;

Whereas, courses taken Credit/No-Credit would fulfil major or minor requirements while courses taken Pass/D/Fail would not;

Whereas, many faculty members already support the ongoing Credit/No-Credit policy and its use for courses in the student's major and/or minor;

Whereas, policy actions that have been demonstrated to support students should be instituted to the greatest extent possible and not limited to times of crisis;

Therefore, be it resolved...

That, the Credit/No-Credit grading system option replace the Pass/D/Fail grading system option permanently;

¹ http://www.middlebury.edu/offices/academic/records/registration/pdf_option

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That, the Credit/No-credit courses substitute for the existing policies allowing two P/D/F courses;

That, the elected Credit/ No-Credit courses be counted towards the five non-standard grade courses;

That, the Course Registration and Conduct of Courses in the Middlebury Handbook read:

- “CR/NCR Grading Option
 - a. Students may count toward graduation no more than a total of five courses with non-standard grading. The category of “non-standard grading” includes courses elected under the Pass/D/Fail & CR/NCR option; AP, IB, A-Level, and other pre-college testing credits; winter term and summer study honors/pass/fail courses*; and credit-bearing internships. Of these five credits, only two may be taken under the CR/NCR option after Spring 2020. Specific guidelines concerning non-standard grading can be found in the College Handbook under Degree Requirements.
 - b. Students must be enrolled in at least three other courses with standard grading to take an additional course CR/NCR.
 - c. Courses taken under the CR/NCR option may not be used to satisfy distribution, College Writing, First-Year Seminar, or cultures and civilizations requirements.
 - d. Courses taken under the CR/NCR are allowed to count towards major and minor requirements.
 - e. Students may elect the CR/NCR option, for a course in which they are already registered, before the last day of classes in the semester. Students must electronically select the CR/NCR option by the last day of classes in the semester. The deadline for changing a course from CR/NCR to standard grading is the drop deadline (i.e., the last day of classes in the semester). There will be no revoking of CR/NCR once it has been elected.
 - f. Winter Term: Students may not elect the CR/NCR option for winter term courses which are otherwise offered with standard grading. Occasionally the Curriculum Committee gives an instructor permission to offer an entire course as CR/NCR; if a student takes one of these courses, it will not count as one of his or her two CR/NCR courses, but it will count toward the total of five courses with non-standard grading a student may count toward graduation.

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- g. Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (MIIS) and Study Abroad: Students may not elect the CR/NCR option for courses taken abroad or at MIIS. However, courses taken at MIIS or within an approved study abroad program that are offered in their entirety as CR/NCR—including study abroad internships—will not count as one of the two CR/NCR courses, but will count toward the total of five courses with non-standard grading a student may count toward graduation.
- h. A grade of CR will not be calculated in the student's GPA. The grade NCR means a student will not get credit for the course."

Respectfully submitted,

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